

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 November 2013 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

**Present:** Councillors R Drobny (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, K Nicholls and P Orme.

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council.

### **(13-14)125 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Moon and Taylor and the reasons accepted.

### **(13-14)126 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 18 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllrs Hudson and Mutch declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 13/00754 as they are members of Knott End Golf Club. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 15 as Chair of Preesall Youth and Community Association.

Councillors considered requests from Cllrs Greenhough and Hudson for a dispensation to allow them to discuss and vote on the precept and the Council **resolved** to grant the dispensation until the next elections in 2015 or until the legislation is amended to provide the automatic dispensation, whichever is the sooner.

### **(13-14)127 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2013 be agreed as a true record.

### **(13-14)128 Public Participation (Including a Verbal Police Report)**

At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow non-councillors to speak.

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk reported that, in October 2013 there were 7 reported crimes compared with 9 in the same period last year. There were 15 reports of anti-social behaviour (which now includes environmental issues) last month, and the same number last year.

Cllr Carter asked that the thanks of the Council be passed to PCSO Terry Molloy who had changed his shift to allow him to attend the Armistice Day service that morning.

Cllr Hudson asked that the Police be asked to use an unmarked car in an attempt to reduce drink driving in the run up to the festive period.

At the conclusion of the public participation and at the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

### **(13-14)129 Budget Provision for Projects**

Councillors considered a request from the In Bloom group that the remaining budget provision set aside this year for improving the library garden be rolled forward into next year's budget to allow potentially more expensive works, such as reinstating the fencing or improving the path, to be carried out next year and councillors **resolved** to agree to the request. Councillors further **resolved** to spend the £500 grant received from the Moon Trust to purchase a further bench for the garden.

### **(13-14)130 Ornamental Welcome Signs**

Councillors considered a draft design for two ornamental welcome signs and **resolved** to agree the

proposed layout and colour. Councillors further **resolved** to incorporate the crest and five tourist information symbols including the one to indicate refreshments.

#### **(13-14)131 Community Notice Board**

Councillors considered the purchase of a community notice board to be installed at the back of the playing field car park in front of Wyre Juniors' clubhouse and noted that the cost of the notice board was likely to increase in the next financial year. Councillors **resolved** to purchase a large notice board that would hold 18 A4 sheets.

#### **(13-14)132 Furniture**

Councillors noted that the majority of the furniture had sold at auction, with the exception of the carver chairs that would be put into the December auction. Councillors further noted that the sale had realised over £800.

#### **(13-14)133 Arrangements for December Meeting**

Councillors **resolved** to serve a hot pot supper after the next meeting and **resolved** to invite the In Bloom volunteers to thank them for the excellent work they had done and to invite the ministers of the churches in the township.

#### **(13-14)134 Draft Budget for 2014/15**

Councillors considered, in detail, a first draft of the budget for next year and **resolved** to consider a further draft at the next meeting. During the discussion councillors **resolved** to outsource payroll given the complexities of the legislation and problems encountered with HMRC software.

#### **(13-14)135 Christmas Newsletter**

Councillors noted that the next newsletter is due to be published before Christmas and **resolved** to provide the Clerk with ideas for articles.

#### **(13-14)136 Resurfacing of Park Lane**

Cllr Hudson raised the issue of the poor state of Park Lane and, in particular, its effect on those who use the route to go to Blackpool Victoria Hospital. Councillors noted that County Councillor Taylor has made sure that resurfacing the road is a priority for the 2014/15 schedule of works budget. Cllr Greenhough has reported the state of the road to LCC Highways who had indicated that an inspection would be carried out and she will report at the next meeting. Councillors **resolved** to write to the Emergency Services to ask them to support the Council's request that the road be resurfaced as a priority.

#### **(13-14)137 Fracking**

At the request of Cllr Hudson councillors **resolved** to defer this item to the January meeting.

#### **(13-14)138 Report back from Promotion of Knott End and Preesall Working Group**

Cllr Hudson reported that the group had not met recently and, at his request, councillors **resolved** to Defer this item to the January meeting.

#### **(13-14)139 Location of Future Meetings**

Cllr Nicholls raised the issue of the noise and disturbance caused by young people outside the centre during meetings and asked councillors to consider a change of venue. Councillors **resolved** to defer the item to the January meeting so that enquiries on other locations and the costs involved could be identified.

#### **(13-14)140 Planning Applications**

##### ***13/00730/FUL***

**Proposal:** Erection of detached annexe to be used as ancillary residential accommodation to main house  
**Location:** Orchard House, 112 Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (2 councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the appearance and design are not in keeping with the area.

**13/00754/FUL**

**Proposal:** Alterations to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole fairway

**Location:** Knott End Golf Club, Knott End

Cllrs Hudson and Mutch had declared pecuniary interests in this item and therefore took no part in the discussion or decision. It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

**(13-14)141 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

Wyre Council (festive lights grant)		£2371.18
Mr D Nuttall (millennium tile)		£15.00
Mr C Lamb (millennium tile)		£15.00
Cllr Black (millennium tile)	£15.00)	
Cllr Carter (millennium tile/booklet)	£17.50)	
Cllr Lawson (millennium tile)	£15.00)	
Cllr McCann (millennium tile)	£15.00)	
Cllr Mutch (millennium tile)	£15.00)	
Cllr Nicholls (millennium tile)	£15.00)	
Cllr Orme (millennium tile/booklet)	£17.50)	£110.00
Cllr V Taylor (millennium tile)		£15.00
Wyre Juniors		£125.15

**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs		£1977.76
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of the Council		£ 39.30
Royal British Legion		£17.00
Preesall Auto Discount		£6.25
Wyre Building Supplies		£25.00
Viking		£33.58
Lancashire Probation Trust (In Bloom)		£50.00

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)		£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)		£22.00
LCC Pensions		£417.74

**c) Authorisation to Set Up Direct Debit**

In order to pay pension contributions to Lancashire County Council pension scheme councillors **resolved** to authorise the Clerk to set up the direct debit and for two authorised signatories to sign a letter giving the required permission and the direct debit form.

**d) Statement of Accounts – October 2013**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for October which shows:

Current account	£35,204.71
Reserve account	£20,142.70
Mayor's Charity Account	£240.00
In Bloom Account	£878.32

Councillors **resolved** to note the receipts, the payments by standing order/direct debit and the statement of accounts and to approve the accounts for payment and the setting up of the direct debit.

### **(13-14)142 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

#### **Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the work done at Sunnyside appears to be working. There is a tree down in Green Lane which may cause a blockage and this has been reported. The next meeting is in early December.

#### **Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that Halite has been granted permission to pursue a judicial review and that Ben Wallace MP has tabled question relating to the chairmanship of an energy related committee.

#### **LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that, in the light of recent high profile cases concerning financial impropriety by Clerks, NALC was encouraging all councillors to attend a relevant finance course. Councils are being encouraged to set the precept as late as possible as many principal authorities are refusing to passport any local council tax support funding as this is no longer a separate grant stream.

#### **Christmas Community Group**

Cllr Orme reported that the event was now approaching and invited the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to judge the shop window displays.

#### **Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that a date for the installation of the MUGA and the Youth Shelter was awaited but it should be imminent.

#### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that the In Bloom team had achieved a Silver Gilt award this year, compared to last year's silver award. The certificate will be displayed in the library. Councillors offered their congratulations to all involved for their hard work and a successful outcome.

### **(13-14)143 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr McCann reported that Wyre Council was trying to encourage local recruitment in major projects involving sea defence works and leisure centre refurbishment.

### **(13-14)144 Clerk's Report (information only)**

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

#### **Lengthsman's Report**

With the change to autumnal weather the Lengthsman has begun the annual task of clearing leaves to keep drains clear and to prevent slips by members of the public. We have received another piece of work on the footpath off Pilling Lane which requires inspection and a decision on whether or not to undertake it.

#### **Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm**

A Community Briefing Pack has been received should any councillor wish to read it.

#### **Finger Post Arms**

After a long wait the replacement arms on the finger post outside the Bethel Church have now been installed. Councillors expressed concern at the size of the arms and asked the Clerk to raise this with LCC.

### **Ferry Slip Revamp**

Carl Green has confirmed that he is happy to talk through the proposals with the Council but would like to involve the Environment Agency. A presentation will be arranged either at a scheduled meeting of the Town Council or at a separate meeting.

### **Jubilee Garden Marker Stone**

A provisional date of Wednesday 6 November has been given for the installation of the marker stone. The date had been deferred and would now be installed on 13 November.

### **Groundwork Training Day**

LALC and the Lancashire County Training Partnership have arranged a training day on 31 January 2014 at the Leyland Hotel which will be delivered by members of Groundwork, the environmental regeneration charity. The programme includes 4 workshops (Transform Your Patch, Green Fingers, Involving Others and Sustainable Parish and Town Councils). There is no charge to delegates. If any councillors would like to know more or would like to attend please let the Clerk know.

### **New Litter Bin – Pilling Lane**

John Bettle has confirmed that a new bin has been ordered and will be installed at the top of Pilling Lane when it arrives.

### **Shale Gas Presentation**

LCC recently arranged a briefing for councillors on shale gas operations in Lancashire. The presentations/briefing notes can be accessed on the Parish and Town Council website <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=4587&pageid=21799&e=e>. The Development Management web pages host more background information as well as the presentations and can be accessed on the link below <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=3063&pageid=40065&e=e>.

### **(13-14)145 Mayor's Report (information only)**

The Mayor reported that he had been unable to attend the inauguration of the new Bishop of Blackburn owing to ill health but had very much enjoyed attending the senior prizegiving evening at St Aidans. He had attended both the Remembrance Sunday parade and service and the Armistice service earlier today. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Mr Burn of the Royal British Legion to express their thanks at the excellent organisation of both events.

### **(13-14)146 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Orme asked councillors to support the flying of the Lancashire Day flag on 27 November. Cllr Drobny asked Cllr McCann how many people were actively involved in the In Bloom group.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.15pm.